

# INVITATION



**EUROPEAN  
GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
DAY 2021**

**Thursday 27 May 2021, 09.00 - 18.15 CEST**

The **European Green Infrastructure Day** is a policy conference dedicated to exploring the state of affairs of urban green infrastructure in the European Union.

Through a series of six online panels, industry leaders, renown experts, political representatives and EU institutions officials will discuss how to tap into the multiple benefits of green infrastructure, focusing on their contribution to green recovery and the path towards Europe's climate neutrality.

The event, organised by the **EU Chapter** of the **World Green Infrastructure Network**, will take place on **Thursday 27 May 2021**.

# PROGRAMME



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**09.00 - 09.15**

## **Opening remarks**

- **Manfred Koehler**, President, World Green Infrastructure Network
- **Blaz Kurnik**, Head of Climate Adaptation and LULUCF, European Environment Agency

**Panel I:  
09.15 - 10.15**

## **Green and blue over grey to increase urban biodiversity**

The preservation and restoration of Europe's biodiversity is a key objective of the EU Green Deal as highlighted in the Biodiversity strategy for 2030. By help moving from grey to green, green and blue infrastructure can play a role to increase biodiversity in urban areas to set Europe on the path to ecological recovery. The panel will discuss how to bring biodiversity back in our cities.

### **With:**

- **Eleonora Evi**, Member of the European Parliament (Greens)
- **Stefan Leiner**, Head of Biodiversity unit, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Justine Guiny**, International Biodiversity Policy Officer, Birdlife Europe and Central Asia
- **Stephan Beerends**, Director, Sempergreen

Moderator: **Jure Sumi**, President, Slovenian Green Infrastructure Association

**Panel II:  
10.30 - 11.45**

## **Turning buildings into carbon sink to drive the energy and climate transition**

Representing 40% of Europe's energy consumption and 36% of its GHG emissions, buildings need to be highly efficient and decarbonized to reach climate neutrality. Green roofs and walls can improve buildings' energy performance in a cost-effective and aesthetic way. How can EU policies address the decarbonisation of buildings in a holistic approach?

### **With:**

- **Jutta Paulus**, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)
- **Jure Sumi**, President, Slovenian Green Infrastructure Association
- **Aurelie Beauvais**, Deputy CEO and Policy Director, Solar Power Europe
- **Stefan Moser**, Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency - Buildings and Products, DG Energy, European Commission

Moderator: **Luigi Petito**, Head of Secretariat, EU Chapter - World Green Infrastructure Network

**Panel III:  
12.00 – 13.00**

**Financing urban green infrastructure**

Delivering the multiple benefits of green infrastructure solutions requires substantial public and private investments. In that respect, European funding is a key enabler for the upscaling of green roofs and walls in cities. This panel will discuss which are the main funding opportunities available for green infrastructure projects and how can they be streamlined to support such solutions across Europe.

**With:**

- **Stefanie Lindenberg**, Coordinator Natural Capital Finance, European Investment Bank
- **Peter Berkowitz**, Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Stephen Richardson**, Director Europe, World Green Building Council
- **Filipe Araújo**, Deputy Mayor of Porto & Chair, Environment Forum, Eurocities

Moderator: **Paulo Palha**, President, Portuguese Association for Green Roofs

**Lunch break**

**Panel IV:  
14.00 – 15.30**

**What's up in Europe? News and views from across the EU**

During this session, representatives from green infrastructure associations from 6 different Member States will provide the latest insights and exchange best practices on the deployment of urban green infrastructure at national level.

**With:**

- **Marta Weber-Siwirska**, President, Polish Green Roof Association
- **David Brasfield**, Chairperson, Norwegian Association for Green Infrastructure
- **Julian Briz**, President, Spanish Society for the Promotion of Nature in Urban and Rural Areas
- **Fiona Wolff**, Project Manager, Bundesverband GebäudeGrün e.V. (Germany)
- **Paulo Palha**, President, Associação Nacional de Coberturas Verdes (Portugal)
- **Sophie Rousset-Rouvière**, Chief Delegate, Association des toitures, façades végétales et de l'agriculture urbaine en toiture (France)

Moderator: **Dusty Gedge**, President, European Federation of Green Roof and Green Wall Associations (EFB)

**Panel V:  
15.45 – 16.45**

**Green infrastructure for climate adaptation: how to improve cities' resilience by restoring the natural water cycle**

As recognised by the new EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, green roofs and walls can support the adaptation efforts of European cities and urban areas, making them more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. How can the EU integrate green infrastructure into current climate adaptation and water policies to boost resilience?

**With:**

- **Veronica Manfredi**, Director for Quality of Life, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Sirpa Pietikainen**, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group)
- **Willem Jan Goossen**, Policy Officer, DG Climate Adaptation Unit, European Commission
- **Uwe Harzmann**, Managing Director, Optigruen

Moderator: **Steven Peck**, President, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities

**Panel VI:**  
**17.00 – 18.00**

**Let's design human-centered, healthy and sustainable cities**

Our cities are expanding fast and will be the habitat for most of humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to ensure that they are comfortable and sustainable from both a health and environment point of view. What role can vegetated surfaces play to make urban areas greener and healthier for all?

**With:**

- **Xavier Troussard**, Head of Unit, New European Bauhaus, European Commission
- **Karlis Goldstein**, Adviser, EU Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson
- **Stefano Boeri**, Founding Partner, Studio Boeri Architetti
- **Anne-Marie Bagnall**, Director of the Centre for Health Promotion Research, Leeds Beckett University

Moderator: **David Brasfield**, Chairperson, Norwegian Association for Green Infrastructure

**18.00 – 18.15**

**Conclusions**

- **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
- **Manfred Koehler**, President, World Green Infrastructure Network



**About us**

The World Green Infrastructure Network (WGIN) brings together national and regional green roof and walls associations, researchers and industry representatives to advocate for the systematic integration of green infrastructures in urban areas. As a registered Not-For-Profit association WGIN primary driver is passion and a strong united belief that our world must develop in respect and synergy with nature. The transition from 'grey to green and blue infrastructure' for building and urban design is the goal of our efforts.

In 2019 WGIN established an EU Chapter to advocate for supportive policies to advance the inclusion of vegetative systems within the European urban fabric.

**With the support of**

